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Defense Language Branch

The Current Situation and the Nation's Resolution.
An address delivered by Minister of War ARAKI, Sadao.

Excerpts from July 11th and 12th
issues of the OSAKA MAINICHI SHIMBUN, 1938.

As to the relation between Japan and China, let me state that Japan wanted to go straight along the way of Japan through the current situation for permanent peace of the East. We managed, for this purpose, to recover the Eastern spirit or civilization which is of most importance at present, and to combine and adjust it with the Western civilization. These wishes of the Japanese, however, could not curb the general trends of situation, for China turned out not to accept this sincerity of Japan's. We don't know whether or not it was CHIANG KAI-SHEK's personal intention. It is a matter of our regret that the relation between both countries has come to be in such a deplorable condition as it is now. They should have been cooperating hand in hand.

It is a matter of greatest regret that Japan has been standing under gun-fire more than one year against China, with whom Japan ought to have been cooperative, as I said before. Now that the state of things has become such, however, Japan should make her way clarified before the world, make China fully understand Japan's mentality, and make the world understand Japan's actions. Thus by all means practical we should not stop our efforts in accomplishing our purpose through the situation till the world is stabilized. There is no doubt but that this problem will be solved sooner or later if all the Japanese are in perfect unity under the virtue of His Majesty.

Now let us talk of another question. It is a question which is better, Fascism or Naziism, for us. But I think there is no need for us to look in a flurry for some model through Europe. For Japan of today is different from the Japan in the Meiji Restoration. We have now civilization and education as excellent as any.

It is greatly regrettable that the present incident has broken out between Japan and China. It may be partly due to lack of acknowledging the general tendency of the world on the part of CHIANG KAI-SHEK and his followers. But before blaming others for it, we should reflect ourselves whether or not we have been sincere enough.



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"From shoes to wooden clogs" is often talked about among people of late. It does not matter, however, whether from shoes to wooden clogs or from wooden clogs to bare feet. If any foot-gears become unavailable, our soles can be made as thick as leather. Only we should help each other so that any of us may not be driven into such a miserable condition. This reciprocal idea should first be born in our heart. It is also an objective of a great family system of Japan. The present Emperor's Imperial Accession Rescript partly reads as follows:

When Our Imperial Ancestors founded the Empire and began to govern the subjects, they made the nation like one family and looked upon the subjects as their children. Our divine Predecessors have also reigned over the people with benevolent care. All the subjects have, on their part, been loyal and respectful to the Throne. Thus the Sovereign and the subjects have been harmoniously united. This is the glory of the fundamental character of Our Empire, which should be coexistent with Heaven and Earth."

When you say, "Look at Japan," to the world, do you expect the world will be struck with admiration at Japan? Now come here. There is no robber in Japan. Please come and see. No such atrocious act as murder here. If you lose anything, you are sure to find it. So please come and see Japan. I would like to say so. But I must consult with you whether or not it is true. I mean, with you here in Osaka. "Come and see our ward in the city whenever you like. If you lose your watch or throw away your wallet here, we are sure to find it for you tomorrow." Please establish such a ward by all means.

When you stand up and say, pointing to the conditions of your ward, "Come and see Japan. These are the real aspects of Japan." and when other wards follow yours, then you can say, "Let us show you the real aspects of Japan." to tourists all over the world through radio broadcast or wireless. This is not my idle talk. We Japanese will show deep sympathy, humanity and a sense of gratitude when left alone. There is every indication that some of the Japanese masses will show these virtues all the more when left uninterfered with.

The governor told me about a certain primary school teacher at KITANOSE village, Osaka prefecture at the time of the recent flood. When landslides were sweeping there, he was rescuing, first those with whom he was acquainted and next their neighbors. When the last landslide attacked a house, he was in it, trying to rescue an old woman, her



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daughter-in-law, and a child. Unfortunately, despite his efforts the flood washed them away. The teacher, the old woman and her daughter-in-law were drowned. The child in the man's arms, however, was saved. This is the true aspect of the Japanese.

The other day a war-correspondent from China told as follows. Some Japanese soldiers were in charge of making a battlefield clear of the killed after a battle in North China. They employed, for this purpose, some Chinese coolies. When burial was over, one of the Japanese soldiers began to smoke placidly. He smoked half of his cigarette. Then he offered it reverently upon a grave mound and prayed in silence. He did it naturally, not on purpose.

Putting it unostentatiously upon the mound, he bowed down calmly. I think he said to himself, "I don't hate you because you are a Chinese. You are a Chinese, while I am a Japanese. That is why things have come to this. You also have dear wives, children and parents." Such a frame of mind was spontaneously born in him, and he offered them his half-smoked cigarette as if to let them smoke, I suppose. Observing it, one of the coolies brought him a mass of snow with firm features. At first the Japanese soldier could not understand what he meant. But he washed his soiled hands with the snow carelessly, taking it to be the coolie's intentions. Again he brought another mass of snow for the same purpose. In the meantime, tears stood in the eyes of the coolie, who seemed to be ignorant and devoid of humanity or a sense of gratitude, and who was clearing a battlefield employed by the enemy. Gradually his head was hung. The Japanese soldiers also mingled their tears with him (Applause). Even this single deed of a innocent Japanese soldier commands respect of a coolie in the enemy country.

Moreover, cenotaphs were erected by the Japanese for the repose of enemy's as well as friends' souls, which won respect and admiration of the enemy leaders. There is no denying that CHIANG KAI-SHEK and his followers have humanity as much as the coolie. May, they are more humane and more sensitive, I believe. When the real and unaffected "Japanese spirit" or "Japanese virtue" was shown and prevailed upon the coolie by the soldier in our country, he became spontaneously docile without coercion. When every one of 90 million people of Japan offers his half-smoked cigarette upon CHIANG KAI-SHEK with deep sympathy, who can say that he will



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not become understanding also. What is the key in solving the situation? It is not only our military display toward HANKOW, nor bombardment at CANTON, nor our army planes flying about. But I think it is when such necessary military displays are backed by the genuine sympathy of the Japanese people and their sincere wishes for peace of the East that the present situation will be settled fruitfully. The above-mentioned story of the soldier may be listened to with more respect especially when the Japanese should be more humble in victory.



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I, who occupy the post of Chief of the Materials Section in the MAINCHI Press, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 8 pages and entitled "The Current Situation and the Nation's Resolution" is a copy of a report on our newspaper issued on July 11th, 1938.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 15th day of February, 1947

/s/ TAMURA, Hisashi (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,
on the same date.

Witness: /s/ SUGAWARA, Kunitake (seal)

